



TJIC Alert

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ENVIRONMENT

1. Natural Hazards, UnNatural Disasters: The Economics of Effective Prevention

The World Bank and the United Nations November 11, 2010 280 p.

Full Text: http://www.gfdrr.org/gfdrr/sites/gfdrr.org/files/nhud/files/NHUD-Report_Full.pdf

Earthquakes, droughts, floods, and storms are natural hazards, but unnatural disasters are the deaths and damages that result from human acts of omission and commission. Every disaster is unique, but each exposes actions, by individuals and governments at different levels, that, had they been different, would have resulted in fewer deaths and less damage. Prevention is possible, and the book examines what it takes to do this cost-effectively.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

2. 2010 Disasters in Numbers

U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

January 24, 2011

2 p.

Full text: http://www.unisdr.org/preventionweb/files/17613_rectoversodisasters2010.pdf

Some 373 natural disasters killed over 296,800 people in 2010, affecting nearly 208 million others and costing nearly US\$110 billion, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). The top two most lethal disasters -- the 12 January earthquake in Haiti, which killed over 222,500 people, as well as the Russian heat wave in summer, which caused about 56,000 fatalities made 2010 the deadliest years in at least two decades. "These figures are bad, but could be seen as benign in years to come," said Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. "Unless we act now, we will see more and more disasters due to unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation. And weather-related disasters are sure to rise in the future, due to factors that include climate change."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

3. UNEP Year Book: Emerging Issues in Our Global Environment 2011

United Nations Environment Programme

February 17, 2011

92 p.

Full text: http://www.unep.org/yearbook/2011/pdfs/UNEP_YEARBOOK_Fullreport.pdf

Phosphorus pollution, along with other uncontrolled discharges, such as nitrogen and sewage, are linked with a rise in algal blooms which in turn harm water quality, poison fish stocks and undermine coastal tourism. At the same time there is also growing concern over the impact of billions of pieces of plastic, both large and small, on the health of the global marine environment. The research suggests that the plastic broken down in the oceans into small fragments, alongside pellets discharged by industry, may absorb a range of toxic chemicals linked to cancer and impacts the reproductive processes of humans and wildlife. also calls for phasing in changes in the collection, recycling and re-use of plastics. "If plastic is treated as a valuable resource, rather than just a waste product, any opportunities to create a secondary value for the material will provide economic incentives for collection and reprocessing," the Year Book points out.

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4. Achieving And Sustaining Earth Observations: A Preliminary Plan Based On A Strategic Assessment By The U.S. Group On Earth Observations

The White House

September 2010

69 p.

Full Text: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp-usgeo-report-earth-obs.pdf>

"We live in an era of unprecedented stress on our planet. the combination of population growth, climate change, resource demand, and the continuing development of coastal and built areas creates significant challenges for the nation. to meet these challenges, there is a need for information about the earth system and how it is changing over time. A robust infrastructure of earth observations is necessary to support the nation's need to inform decisions and policy. Additionally, in this ever more global society, information and understanding derived from earth observations are important in sustaining the U.S. role in global leadership."

5. Sustaining America's Urban Trees And Forests

U.S. Department of Agriculture

October 7, 2010

28 p.

Full Text: http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/fote/reports/nrs-62_sustaining_americas_urban.pdf

Close to 80 percent of the U.S. population (220 million people) lives in urban areas and depends on the essential ecological, economic, and social benefits provided by urban trees and forests. However, the distribution of urban tree cover and the benefits of urban forests vary across the United States, as do the challenges of sustaining this important resource. As urban areas expand across the country, the importance of the benefits that urban forests provide, as well as the challenges to their conservation and maintenance, will increase. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current status and benefits of America's urban forests, compare differences in urban forest canopy cover among regions, and discuss challenges facing urban forests and their implications for urban forest management.

6. Environmental Health in Early Childhood Systems Building

National Center for Children in Poverty.

December 2010

16 p.

Full Text: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_981.pdf

Exposure to environmental hazards has negative outcomes for healthy child development. Household and community pollutants affect people of all ages, but for a number of important reasons young children face a significantly higher risk of developing disease and experiencing cognitive and psychomotor developmental delays. Fortunately, many common forms of exposure are preventable,

and there are abundant opportunities for state level stakeholders to initiate and support effective interventions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

7. Environment, Conflict And Peacebuilding At IISD: Addressing The Links Among Environmental Change, Natural Resources And Security

International Institute for Sustainable Development

October 2010 6 p.

Full Text: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2010/brochure_environment_conflict_peacebuilding.pdf

The brief contends that a better understanding of the links between environmental change and human security is vital for effective conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. The connections between environmental issues and conflict are many and complex. There is a crucial need to understand these links and transmit them to policy-makers and practitioners.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

8. Natural Laboratory

Julie Cart

National Wildlife

April/May 2011

Currently available online at <http://www.nwf.org/en/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2011/Studying-Global-Warming-at-Yellowstone.aspx>

Yellowstone National Park has become a foremost laboratory for study of the effects of global warming because it is so close to its original state and hosts such a wide variety of flora and fauna. Scientists have already recorded changes in water levels, a rise in destructive pine beetle infestations, and negative, or potentially negative, impacts on fish and wildlife species. Climate change presents a significant management challenge to this unique ecosystem. Scientists in Yellowstone look to create new strategies for protecting the diversity of such compromised natural preserves.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

9. Clean Contracts: Making Clean Local Energy Accessible Now

Center for American Progress

January 2011

26 p.

Full Text: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/pdf/clean_contracts.pdf

For many reasons, it's time to change direction in America's energy use to rely on clean renewable energy, according to the paper. Renewable power reverses harmful environmental trends from global warming to local air pollution that hurts human health. But clean energy has many purely economic benefits as well. The paper looks at the one policy that has helped to bring more renewable electricity into the marketplace than any other: the Clean Local Energy Accessible Now, or CLEAN, contract, also known as a "feed-in tariff."

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10. Getting Warmer: U.S. CO2 Emissions from Power Plants

The Environmental Integrity Project

February 18, 2011

7 p.

Full text: http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/documents/CO2Report_2011RJD21811final.pdf

The report shows that carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from power plants in the U.S. rose 5.56 percent in 2010 over the year before, the biggest annual increase since the EPA began tracking emissions in 1995. The report is based on data from the EPA's "Clean Air Markets" website, which tallies emission reports from electric generators. Texas power plants led the pack in 2010, with nearly 257 million ton of CO2 emissions, as much as the next two states combined (Florida and Ohio), and more than seven times the total CO2 emissions from power plants in California.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

11. Will Green Energy Make the United States Less Secure?

H. Sterling Burnett and Wesley Dwyer

2 p.

National Center for Policy Analysis

February 10, 2011

Full text: <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba739.pdf>

Environmentalists have long cited the environmental harms caused by fossil fuels as evidence of the need to move to green sources of energy such as wind and solar power. Recently, some conservatives have joined their cause. However, key components of renewable energy technologies are made from a small number of rare earth elements, and other rare minerals. Despite the name, these elements are relatively abundant in Earth's crust, but they are rarely found in economically exploitable concentrations. The exception to this generality is the People's Republic of China.

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